

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~SECRET~~ (XGDS)

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE ATTACHMENT~~

September 29, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM:

^{D.E.} DAVID ELLIOTT/RICHARD OBER ^{RO-}

SUBJECT:

Establishment of the Committee for
Civil Applications of Classified Overhead
Photography of the United States

NSS Review Completed.

The President directed that certain of the recommendations of the Rockefeller Commission Report on CIA Activities be implemented (Tab B), and specifically requested that the Director of OMB, the Director of Central Intelligence, and you to prepare a directive establishing an interagency committee to oversee the domestic uses of aerial [space] intelligence photography.

Such a directive has been developed and coordinated with DOD, CIA, NASA, Interior, State, and OMB, and has been signed by Colby and Lynn (Tab A). With your signature it can be issued and the committee will come into being.

A memorandum to the President at Tab I would transmit a copy of the directive for his information, as requested in his memorandum (Tab B).

The appropriate classification of the directive is at issue. OMB and the CIA staffs feel the directive can be unclassified. It seems to us that since the directive makes direct and specific reference to "classified overhead photography" and "foreign intelligence collection," it should be protected under the November 23, 1973, decision (Tab C) stating that "the fact that the United States Government conducts a photographic satellite reconnaissance program for foreign intelligence collection be classified SECRET."

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That you sign the directive at Tab A.
2. That you approve its classification at the SECRET level.

APPROVE 

DISAPPROVE _____

- 3. That you initial the memorandum to the President at Tab I and transmit a copy of the signed directive.

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE ATTACHMENT~~

~~SECRET~~ (Upon Removal of Attachment) (XGDS)

[No attachment]

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

HENRY A. KISSINGER HK

SUBJECT:

Establishment of the Committee
for Civil Applications of Classified
Overhead Photography of the United States

You requested (Tab B) that as a follow-up to the recommendations of the Rockefeller Commission Report on CIA Activities, an interagency committee be established to oversee the domestic use, for civil purposes, of the classified overhead photography of the U.S. taken by intelligence satellites and aircraft. Bill Colby, Jim Lynn, and I coordinated a directive for such a committee with the interested agencies, and it was issued in your name.

You asked to receive copies of all directives relating to the implementation of the Rockefeller Commission recommendations. The directive on civil use of classified overhead photography is at Tab A.

SECRET/GDS

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR

The Secretary of Defense
The Secretary of Interior
The Secretary of Agriculture
The Secretary of Commerce
The Administrator, National Aeronautics
and Space Administration
The Administrator, Environmental Protection
Agency
The Chief of Engineers, United States Army

SUBJECT: Establishment of the Committee for Civil Applications
of Classified Overhead Photography of the United States

The President has noted that the Commission on CIA Activities Within the United States in discussing classified overhead photography of the United States concluded that it can find no impropriety in permitting continued civilian use of such photography and that economy dictates the use of the photographs for appropriate civilian purposes. Accordingly, the President has directed the establishment of a civilian agency committee to oversee civilian uses of classified overhead photography taken over the United States.

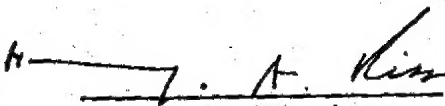
To implement the President's decision, the following actions are to be taken:

1. The Secretary of Interior will form a Committee for Civil Applications of Classified Overhead Photography of the United States which will:
 - receive, evaluate, consolidate, standardize, establish priorities and transmit to the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) all requests for such photography from domestic civilian agencies;
 - facilitate civilian agencies' use of classified systems and coordinate the incorporation of photography, derived data, and technology in performance of domestic civilian functions;

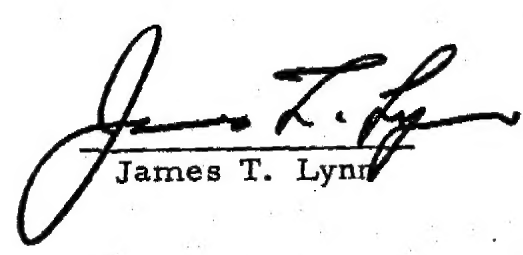
- supply information to civilian agencies so that they may knowledgeably formulate requests and reach compromises between requests and capabilities;
- act as the interface between civilian agencies and intelligence collectors, recognizing that the Director of Central Intelligence will not be involved in judgments concerning civil agency needs or priorities and that collection for this purpose will remain incidental to foreign intelligence collection;
- oversee civilian agency uses of classified photography in a manner designed to avoid any concerns that domestic photographic coverage is being used improperly.

In performing all of the above activities, the Committee will be subject to guidelines established by the President.

2. The committee will be chaired by the representative of the Department of Interior and will consist of representatives of the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency. Membership may be expanded at the discretion of the Committee.
3. The Director of Central Intelligence will designate a representative to serve ex officio on the Committee for the purpose of liaison with the intelligence community, to assist in obtaining domestic photographic coverage, to address issues concerned with the use of classified products, and to facilitate the acquisition of security clearances for users. Since civil usage of data is enhanced if unclassified, the DCI's representative will be an intermediary on questions concerning release of classified information from security controls, as appropriate.


Henry A. Kissinger


William E. Colby


James T. Lynn